

Author's Perspective

Directions: Read the boxed excerpt from a biography of Abraham Lincoln by Horatio Alger, in which the author describes the young Lincoln working as a store clerk. Then answer the questions that follow.

One day a woman came into the store and purchased sundry articles. They footed up two dollars and six and a quarter cents, or the young clerk thought they did. . . .

The bill was paid, and the woman was entirely satisfied. But the young storekeeper, not feeling quite sure as to the accuracy of his calculation, added up the items once more. To his dismay he found that the sum total should have been but two dollars.

"I've made her pay six and a quarter cents too much," said Abe, disturbed.

It was a trifle, and many clerks would have dismissed it as such. But Abe was too conscientious for that.

"The money must be paid back," he decided.

This would have been easy enough had the woman lived "just round the corner," but, as the young man knew, she lived between two and three miles away. This, however, did not alter the matter. It was night, but he closed and locked the store, and walked to the residence of his customer. Arrived there, he explained the matter, paid over the six and a quarter cents, and returned satisfied. If I were a capitalist, I would be willing to lend money to such a young man without security.

—Horatio Alger

1. Why does the author say he "would be willing to lend money to such a young man"? _____
2. List at least **three** words or phrases that show the author's feelings about Lincoln's behavior. _____

3. According to the author, why was it a special effort for Lincoln to go to the customer's house? _____

4. In **one** sentence, explain the author's overall perspective on the young Lincoln. _____
